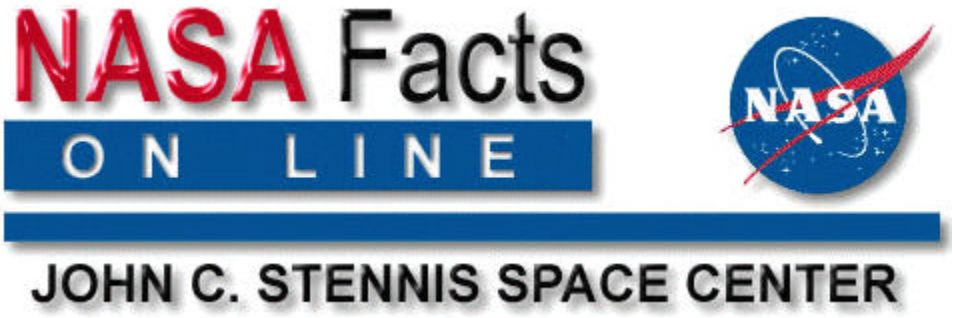

Commercial Remote Sensing Program Office Fact Sheet

The Commercial Remote Sensing Program (CRSP) Office at the John C. Stennis Space Center in South Mississippi is NASA's lead center for implementing commercial remote sensing activities. It works to assist companies involved in areas such as environmental consulting, land use planning and natural resource management to use NASA-developed technology for development of information products. These partnerships are used to conduct joint research, development and testing programs emphasizing advanced remote sensing technologies.

Remote sensing uses sensors that are either ground-based or mounted on aircraft and spacecraft to look at the Earth. Ground-based remote sensing systems look out over the horizon while air-based systems look down on the surface. Pictures or imagery acquired from these systems may be referenced to a coordinate system to produce current maps.

Digital imagery data is then displayed using desktop computer systems. These images may be viewed many different ways using popular graphic display software packages. The detailed geographic information contained in the individual scenes of remotely sensed data enables users to identify buildings, roads, streams, fields, crops and many other land types.

There are many ways companies can examine remote sensing technologies for enhancing their businesses. Companies that have not traditionally used remote sensing now have an excellent opportunity to accomplish their work through the Visiting Investigator Program (VIP). This program is a way to investigate and evaluate a broad range of remote sensing and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology. GIS technology is a computerized way to take an in-depth look at a specific area on Earth. The VIP is used by companies involved in areas such as environmental consulting, land use planning and natural resource management. The VIP-Affiliate Program sets up satellite VIP centers at four different universities nationwide to make it easier and less costly for companies to participate in the program. VIP-Affiliate schools are the University of South Carolina, San Diego State University in California, Utah State University in Logan and the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Many businesses already use remotely sensed data to develop products. These businesses have an opportunity to partner with NASA in packaging and demonstrating the market viability of new products through the competitive selection of an Earth Observations Commercial Applications Program (EOCAP) contract. With co-funded partnerships, managed by SSC personnel, companies use NASA-developed technology to create information products. Through EOCAP, remote sensing is now being used to

improve the growth and harvesting of potato crops, to improve efforts to assess the environmental impact of oil and chemical spills, to protect the environment and to manage Earth's natural resources.

In addition to directly assisting businesses, the CRSP at Stennis Space Center is involved in the development of many new and innovative types of remote sensing systems. Scientists working with the Mission to Planet Earth program are planning for the collection of important data sets that will enable them to measure, map and monitor conditions on the Earth's surface and atmosphere to model the global climate. Many new sensor systems will be launched into space as part of the Earth Observing System, which is a global maintaining capability. NASA's Small Spacecraft Technology Initiative supports the launch of the Lewis and Clark systems, which will provide access to very high-resolution data from space in the near future.

The mission of CRSP is to maximize U.S. industry s use of remote sensing and related space-based technologies and to develop advanced technical responses to spatial information requirements. CRSP is responding to the challenge of assisting U.S. firms in developing state-of-the-practice technologies that cost-effectively support this market through facilities and expertise.

For more information about Stennis Space Center's Commercial Remote Sensing Program office, call (601) 688-2042, or access the SSC home page on the World Wide Web at http://crsphome.ssc.nasa.gov (no quotes).

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